

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, October 15, 2007 - 5:00 p.m.
Room 402 City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna Ennis, Warner Wirta, Tony LaDeaux, Ricky DeFoe, Michele Gordon, Beatrice Kitto, John Day

EXCUSED ABSENT: Dr. Robert Powless, Joy Dorscher, Mike Sayers

STAFF PRESENT: John Judd, Katie Nickolay (CD intern)

OTHERS PRESENT: See sign-in sheet

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Motion by John Day, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2007 MEETING:

Motion by John Day, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2007 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM/OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

A panel presentation on "Human Rights Issues and the American Indian Community" is scheduled for 7 pm tonight at UMD with Dr. Powless, Linda Grover and Jim Northrup.

Greg Price provided/presented additional information regarding toxic material in the barrels dumped into Lake Superior.

Kady Lausche from Lake Superior College

International Visitor Leadership Program has two visitors coming to Duluth. They will need sponsors and a place to stay on 10/27 and 10/28. They are also in need of a tour guide. They will be visiting Fond du Lac Reservation.

Commission Liaison with the Children's Justice Initiative (CJI)

Ms. DeVerney was unable to attend and will be rescheduled to the November meeting.

Candidate's debate: Council chambers on 10/17

Mayoral candidates will be there to discuss environmental issues. DeFoe will be present to ask and answer questions on behalf of the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of City Council Resolution regarding Housing Investment Fund (HIF) Recommendations Discussion of presentation to and action of City Council on 09/24 and 10/09 - Sherry Sanchez-Tibbetts gave a recap of 9/24 and 10/09 City Council meetings. In the end, AICHO's YWCA building housing/Indian Center did receive the \$600,000 from the City's HIF.

Next Steps - Report on the Indian Center / Housing Project –

AICHO is waiting to hear from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) by the end of this month about additional \$3+ million in funding for the project. If the purchase of the building happens by the end of this year then the project can stay on track for an opening by spring 2009.

There will be a celebration and capital campaign kick-off / Community Feast in November.

Other Sub-Committee Reports - None

NEW BUSINESS:

Memo, American Indian Duluth Workforce –

Katie Nickolay had difficulty finding meaningful statistical information regarding American Indian participation in the Duluth workforce. Because there is only a 7% minority population, 4% of which are Native people, they cannot be more than 4% in the workforce. Nickolay also handed-out some additional information on national trends and DeFoe suggested some alternative approaches to finding this type of information.

Discussion of a proposed Arts Center at Spirit Mountain -

Warner Wirta supports some sort of Native Art project. He would like to represent DAIC on a Spirit Mountain Committee. A letter will be drafted inviting Renee Mattson to a Commission meeting to express our interests. Carol Reschke would like to see a monument or interpretive trail regarding Native history. A project that would attract tourists would be good. DeFoe said not all Native people are in support of developing the area at all, especially overdeveloping the area is frowned upon by Traditional Native people.

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is forming a Tribal Nations Education Committee:

The Committee will be statewide and represent all 11 Tribes; also, urban communities should be represented. Get the word out that Duluth is in need of a representative to sit on this committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Ricky DeFoe: City Council meeting was a good learning experience. He is grateful to be on the DAIC.

Warner Wirta: He hopes the Spirit Mountain thing is resolved in a satisfactory manner.

Bea Kitto: Bea approached FDL/RBC about joining Red Cliff's efforts regarding the examination/recovery of the barrels in Lake Superior. They were resistant to the idea. Bea will be out of town for the next two (November/December) meetings.

Tony LaDeaux: He is glad the HIF funding came through for the new American Indian Center. He feels very strongly about the need for a Civilian Review Board.

John Day: He believes the DAIC retains credibility after the recent City Council meeting.

Donna Ennis: Nothing new.

Michele Gordon: Left at 6:15.

John Judd: City Police Chief Gordon Ramsey and Sergeant Robert Shene will be scheduled for the November meeting.

NEXT MEETING/DATE/LOCATION:

November 19, 2007, Room 402 of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:45 p.m.